Nixon Backs Case Measure For Open CIA Radio Funding

5/23/71

United Press International

The Nixon administration has agreed to end the process by which the Central Intelligence Agency funneled $30 million a year to two radio stations which beam news and propaganda to Eastern Europe, it was announced yesterday.

Instead, the administration will ask Congress to approve a public subsidy of about $40 million for the stations, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

The stations posed as privately supported nonprofit operations until last Jan. 25, when Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) said in a speech that the CIA had been the source of almost all their funds for years.

Case announced that the administration has endorsed his proposal for a public subsidy. But although he will introduce the administration bill Monday to bring it about, he questioned whether the measure would provide enough congressional scrutiny of how the subsidy will be spent.

Under the administration bill—which Case and Rep. Ogden Reid (R-N.Y.) will introduce in Congress Monday—a nonprofit corporation known as the American Council for Private International Communications, Inc., would be established. Case said its purpose would be "to promote free flow of information to the peoples of the world through established private organizations."

Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty were created after World War II. As apparently private agencies, they were more free than the Voice of America, an official government agency to broadcast propaganda.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing Monday on the financing bill. The State Department will support it.